Best Wishes.

GETTING THE BEST THERE IS.

Matt.6:33 But seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.

Intro. The meaning of the phrase, "Kingdom of Heaven".

1. Some think of it as a place to which we go when we die, some celestial city with pearly gates, golden streets and singing angels.

2. But Jesus, in the Sermon on the mount and elsewhere refers to the K.G. as something to be realized here and now, a human realization and achievement. Christ means by it a certain quality of human living which comes from obeying the rule of the Divine Spirit of God. "The Kingdom of heaven is within you" if your heart is right. The K.of H. is among you if the social relations of your group are right. "The Kingdom of heaven is coming all the time with power and glory in all those movements of thot and purpose which encourage the rule of the divine Spirit in the lives of men." C.R.Brown

3. The Kingdom of heaven, then, may be thot of as that quality of life which enables a man to realize the best there is in life for him.

   a. The 3 degrees of grammar-positive, comparitive and superlative. Good, better, best.

   b. The three degrees of people.
      The creatures of heredity and environment, the animal stage
      Those who strive to better their circumstances and improve their conditions- the human stage.
      Those who seek to overcome the handicaps of both heredity and environment and strive to realize the very best in life- the divine stage.

Getting the very best there is in life has to do with the divine. It has to do with God and His Spirit and His rule for our right and perfect living. Living according to the rule of the Spirit of God is the superlative degree of all living. By setting before us goals and ideals of perfection God is lifting us up from the human into the divine way of living.

I. The first step toward getting the best there is, a matter of Choice. "Choose ye this day whom ye shall serve", what ye shall be, what ye shall get, what ye shall do, where ye shall go or live.

1. Before a man can choose a thing, he must realize that the thing is something which he does not possess, and that the thing is something which he desires to have, and ~~t~~ then he must become willing to do all that is necessary to obtain possession of it.

Cynics say that every man has his price. A man, no matter how good he is can be won over to another man's purposes however evil they may be. Personally I don't believe that the cynics are right, but I will add to their statement that everything in life has its price And the more worth while and valuable the thing may be the bigger the price is.

Take getting an education, for example. Buy a libr library, buy all the books to a university course and pay your tuition fees: yes, and you may go still further and listen to the professors give their lectures for four years and receive your diploma, and still you may not possess an education.

There is within a man a hidden capacity, latent powers, as it were. Education is the process of drawing out of a man's hidden capacities worthier modes of thots, finer feelings, higher motives and actions. The product of a true education is a more reliable and useful type of personal character. The price of getting such an education is indeed great. The loafer, the joy-rider, the flapper, the booser and the chaser in our colleges never get educated.

Success in business has its price, a happy home has its price- everything worth while in life costs something.

2. A man, in order to get the best there is, must pay the price.

I may be prejudiced, but I am of the opinion that the Christian method of living enables a man to get the best there is in life. A Christianized business is the highest type of business there is, a business whose goal is not gain so much as it is useful service for a reasonab profit.

A christianized home life is the highest type of home life ever achieved by man. The Xn virtues not only bring peace and love and happiness into the home, but impart to the children that which in later life is worth more to them and society than any millions they may inherit.

A Xanized society is the highest type of social order. The shams of worldly society. The Lakeside community.

A Xanized government is the highest type of gov't in the the world. It guarantees liberty, justice and the pursuit of happiness to all. It stands for settlement of disputes by arbitration instead of by war, for helping peoples in distress and for cooperation among the nations.

Xn literature is the best literature to read and Xn art is the highest art to study. Xn songs and hymns and music tower above, infinitely above the pagan music of the world.

A Xianed life is the highest type of life possible for man.

But it costs a great deal. Huxley said, "It does'nt take much of a man to be a Xn; but it takes all there is of him".

It takes the whole of a man to make a Xn. It takes all there is in a man for him to get the best thre is in life.

II. The second step in getting the best there is is Constant effort and practice.

Getting the best there is must be made a life-habit. It must be more than a belief or adherence to a creed, it must be more than a membership in a ch church- it must be a demonstration in conduct and deeds; it must be a character and personality.

We pour ourselves into the best there is until the best there is becomes a part of us. We get by giving, we gain by losing. "Whosoever would save his life shall lose it, but whosoever loses his life for my sake(said Jesus) shall save it".

Con. The application to our church situation. If we expect to build the K of G we must put forth our best effort. We must put our whole selves into the task.

The cost of our amusements.

Not only the prices of admission that we pay to see(this is more than we give to the church)

But the personal effort put forth by the companies and performers. Fortunes and life are risked in order to succeed.

Can we say as much for our effort on behalf of the church?

Seek ye first the K. of G.